

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Tejon-Castac Water District and Tejon Ranchcorp, Tejon Industrial Complex Wastewater Treatment Facility, Kern County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements and Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: The Tejon-Castac Water District, and Tejon Ranchcorp (Discharger) operates a Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) that serves the Tejon Industrial Complex. The Complex is on Interstate 5 near Highway 99. The Complex includes Petro Plaza, truck and automotive fueling, and repair facilities, a food court, a full service restaurant, and shopping facilities. Treated wastewater is discharged to ponds, with the option of being filtered, disinfected and recycled on landscaping.

The Discharger originally proposed to exclusively recycle effluent on its landscaping to reduce water usage. Therefore, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 99-076 authorize the discharge of up to 0.05 mgd and includes effluent limits based on Title 22 standards for unrestricted use of recycled water. The Discharger has never complied with these limits, but has also never used the effluent for unrestricted use.

The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) to increase overall capacity to 0.1 mgd. Although the Discharger completed construction of an additional WWTF to increase its overall capacity to 0.1 mgd, it was unable to meet the limits in Order No. 99-076. Current monthly average discharge flows are about 0.06 mgd.

The proposed WDRs include specifications for the discharge to ponds of undisinfected secondary effluent, and discharge to landscaped areas of disinfected tertiary effluent. The Discharger historically has been unable to consistently comply with either proposed specifications (40 mg/L monthly average, 80 mg/L daily maximum). In September 2007, the Discharger installed a dissolved air floatation unit to reduce the typically high influent BOD and TSS. Although at times successful, the Discharger continues to threaten to violate the secondary standard for TSS in the proposed WDRs.

The Discharger contends that, after some time and changes in operations at the WWTF, it can achieve consistent compliance with the proposed secondary limits. In addition, the Discharger intends to construct a new upgraded WWTF with an initial capacity of 0.6 mgd. The design of the new WWTF has not been complete, but the funding has been made available.

A proposed cease and desist order (CDO) accompanies the proposed WDRs because the Discharger has not yet demonstrated consistent compliance with the limits in the proposed WDRs. The proposed CDO would require the Discharger to perform a series of tasks according to a time schedule, including the construction of a new WWTF, as appropriate.

ISSUES                                      Significant issues are discussed in detail in the Staff Report.

RECOMMENDATION:              Adopt the proposed orders.

Mgmt. Review\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review\_\_\_\_\_

25 January 2008  
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